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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Colombia

Strike Activities in Colombia

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SUBJECT

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SOURCE

- 1. Representatives of several Communist-dominated labor unions, affiliates of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC), attended meetings at the Bogota offices of the CTC on 28 September and 5 October 1948. The meetings were called for the purpose of securing their support for the announced oil strike. Jesus Villegas Palacio, member of the Advisory Council of the Partido Comunista Obrero (PCO), who was present at the first meeting, stated on 1 October that the representatives had pledged full cooperation with the petroleum strike and with the nation-wide strike supporting the petroleum workers. The union representatives also agreed to wage a campaign against the Government charging it with inefficient administration.

 Comment. 25X1X Although a general agreement was reached between the petroleum workers and the companies and the strike was cancelled, specific details of the agreement have not been arranged.)
- 2. Villegas stated that a general strike would embarrass the Government and would probably favor the Communist cause. He claimed that leaders of both Communist factions were determined to effect a general strike even though the Government should flarce a settlement of the pending petroleum strike. He added that there was sufficient unrest among railroad, road, and river workers for the Communists to instigate a strike.
- 3. Diego Montana Cuellar, the representative for the petroleum workers in the strike negotiations and a former Communist Party member, expects to be elected to Congress with the support of a majority of the Barrancabermeja workers in the March 1949 elections, according to Villegas.

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